DEPARTMENT:
GCPD:
CASE FILE:
THE BLUE WALL
CASE NO.:
#0001
WRITER:
JOHN RIDLEY
ARTIST:
STEFANO RAFFAELE
COLORIST:
BRAD ANDERSON
COVER BY:
REIKO MURAKAMI
SPEC:
PRICE:
AGE RATING:
13+

A STORY OF TWO GENERATIONS OF GOTHAM—
STARRING THE BAT-FAMILY AND THE CITY'S FIRST VIGILANTE!

WRITTEN BY
EVAN NARCISSE

ART BY
ABEL

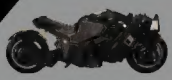
COVERS BY
GREG CAPULLO

THE OFFICIAL PREQUEL TO THE VIDEO GAME!

BATMAN: GOTHAM KNIGHTS GILDED CITY

OCTOBER

6 ISSUES



EACH ISSUE COMES WITH A CODE FOR AN EXCLUSIVE IN-GAME ITEM*

*Terms Apply. See www.dc.com/gothamknightsfaq for details.

WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY.
BOOK I: THE SHOT NOT TAKEN
Written by John Ridley
Drawn by Stefano Raffaele
This comic contains language of a racially offensive nature and may not be suitable for all age groups. Its inclusion is an intentional creative choice intended to highlight the fact that language of this type was frequently deployed in past decades and remains in use today, even as contexts evolve. Readers for whom such language is triggering or hurtful should be advised.

THE IDEALS WE USED TO HOLD COLLECTIVELY, WE DON'T ANYMORE.
THE BELIEF IN THE COMMON GOOD. THE BELIEF THAT TRUTH MATTERS.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THE BELIEF THAT THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WEAR THE UNIFORM AND PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE DO SO TO "PROTECT AND SERVE."
Colored by Brad Anderson
Lettered by Ariana Maher

IN THE HERE AND NOW...THOSE OF THE PUBLIC WHO DON'T BELIEVE WE ARE THE ENFORCERS OF A HEAVY-HANDED AND BIASED JUSTICE SYSTEM THINK WE ARE THE FOOT SOLDIERS OF A GOVERNMENT THAT PERPETRATES THE WILDEST OF CONSPIRACIES.
Cover by Reiko Murakami
Variant Covers by Francesco Francavilla & Jorge Fornés

AS YOU GRADUATE, AS YOU GO FROM BEING CADETS TO OFFICERS, I AM HERE TO TELL YOU WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK DOES NOT MATTER.
Editor:
Arianna Turturro
Group Editor:
Ben Abernathy

EVERY ONE OF YOU GRADUATING THIS AFTERNOON KNOWS THE REASON WE DO THIS JOB IS BECAUSE THE ONLY WAY TO STOP BAD FROM HAPPENING IS BY BUILDING A WALL AGAINST IT.
YOU BUILD IT WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE DEDICATED TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, WHO REFLECT THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE.
THE ONLY COMMONALITY THAT'S REQUIRED IS THE BLUE OF THEIR UNIFORM.

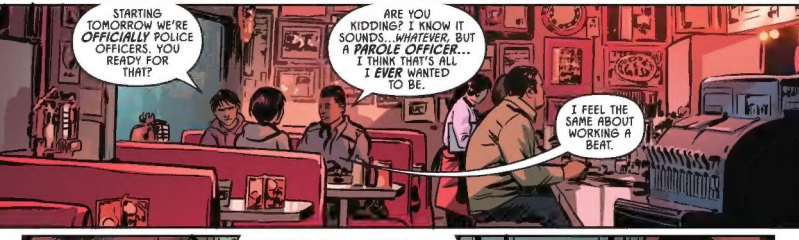
...WONDERFUL SPEECH, RENEE...
...REALLY SET THE TONE...
...SO INSPIRING, COMMISSIONER MONTOYA...
..."BLUE WALL." WELL SAID...
...SO PROUD OF THESE CADETS...
LOOK AT HER. FROM BEAT COP TO DETECTIVE TO COMMISSIONER...
WASN'T EASY, WASN'T PERFECT...BUT RENEE MONTOYA MADE IT.
IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS I'LL START MY FIRST PATROL.
ALL I WANT...I WANT TO DO GOOD. I WANT TO DO RIGHT. BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING, I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE--
PARK... WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
LOOKING AT MONTOYA.
THE COMMISH? SHE'S SUCH A [redacted] BADASS.
NOT SURE SHE'S TRYING TO BE A BADASS. THINK MONTOYA JUST TRIES TO DO MONTOYA.
SOMETIMES JUST BEING WHO YOU ARE IS AS BADASS AS IT GETS.
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT OVER FOOD. LAST NIGHT TOGETHER AS CADETS. TOMORROW...
...WE'RE OFFICERS FOR REAL.
PARK
ORTEGA
WELLS

GREAT SPEECH.
SO MOVING.
TERRIFIC CLASS THIS YEAR.
BEST YET.
THEY'RE ALL GOING TO MAKE GREAT OFFICERS.
BUT DID YOU HEAR THE SPEECH. GREAT SPEECH.
...TWO-FACE...
...OH, FFFFFF...
"BENNY, IT'S RENEE. ...CAN YOU..."

"CAN YOU COME SEE ME? I NEED TO TALK."
BENNY...
HEY, SIS. SO... WHAT'S UP?
BESIDES THE OBVIOUS.
I DIDN'T DRINK IT.
BUT YOU BOUGHT IT, SAT IT IN FRONT OF YOU, WAITED FOR ME TO GET HERE...
I HAD TO MAKE SURE I WOULDN'T DRINK IT.
IT'S ALL KINDA THEATRICAL. WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHERE'S SONDRA?
WAITING IN THE CAR.
TELL HER TO COME IN.
RENEE...
IT'S OKAY IF SHE WANTS TO--
RENEE! WHAT--IS--GOING--ON?

EVERY CHOICE I EVER MADE...I GOT WRONG. I GOT SO [redacted] WRONG. MIDDLE OF MY LIFE, I DON'T HAVE A THING TO SHOW FOR IT.
PEOPLE SEE ME, THEY THINK: "LOOK AT HER. ISN'T SHE GREAT. MADE IT FROM BEAT COP TO COMMISSIONER."
THAT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.
I WENT FROM HELPING PEOPLE AND SOLVING CRIMES TO DEALING WITH POLITICS AND MAKING INSPIRATIONAL SPEECHES TO POLICE CADETS. I ALMOST BAILED ON ALL OF IT. LEFT GOTHAM FOR NEW YORK CITY.*
NOT LIKE THERE'S MUCH KEEPING ME HERE. I LOST DARIA, LOST DAD...MOM DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT. YOU--
*SHE REALLY DID! READ I AM BATMAN #12 & #13 FOR MORE! --ARIANNA
WHERE AM I GOING?
YOU'VE GOT SONDRA.
AND I HAVE ROOM IN MY LIFE FOR MY GIRLFRIEND AND MY SISTER. YOU KNOW THAT. SO WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON?
...WHAT'S GOING ON...
WHEN I TOOK THE COMMISSIONER JOB, I THOUGHT I WAS READY FOR IT.
IT'S JUST ONE MORE THING I GOT WRONG.
READY OR NOT, YOU DID TAKE THE JOB. YOU'RE THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE. SO NOW, WHAT YOU DO, AND HOW YOU LEAD...
THAT'S UP TO YOU.
"ARE YOU READY?"

"SERIOUSLY, YOU GUYS READY?"
Chucky's DINER
Chucky's DINER


STARTING TOMORROW WE'RE OFFICIALLY POLICE OFFICERS. YOU READY FOR THAT?
ARE YOU KIDDING? I KNOW IT SOUNDS...WHATEVER, BUT A PAROLE OFFICER... I THINK THAT'S ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE.
I FEEL THE SAME ABOUT WORKING A BEAT.

YOU BETTER NOT BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, DANNY. YOU GETTING POSTED TO TRICORNER RIGHT OUT OF THE BOX...THAT'S WHERE COPS GO TO BE COPS. HOW'D YOU RATE...?
C'MON, PARK...YOU GOT A GOOD POST.
LITTLE TOKYO. NOTHING BUT TOURISTS. I GET TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE MOAN ABOUT HOW THE WEATHER'S ALWAYS NICER IN METROPOLIS.

I JUST HOPE YOU GUYS DON'T EVER...YOU WERE MY TEAM AT THE ACADEMY. NOW WE'RE ALL GOING OUR SEPARATE WAYS...
FOR REAL, DUDE. QUIT BEING SO FATALISTIC.
NO PASS
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. RIGHT HERE, THIS IS LIKE OUR ROUND TABLE. "ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR--"

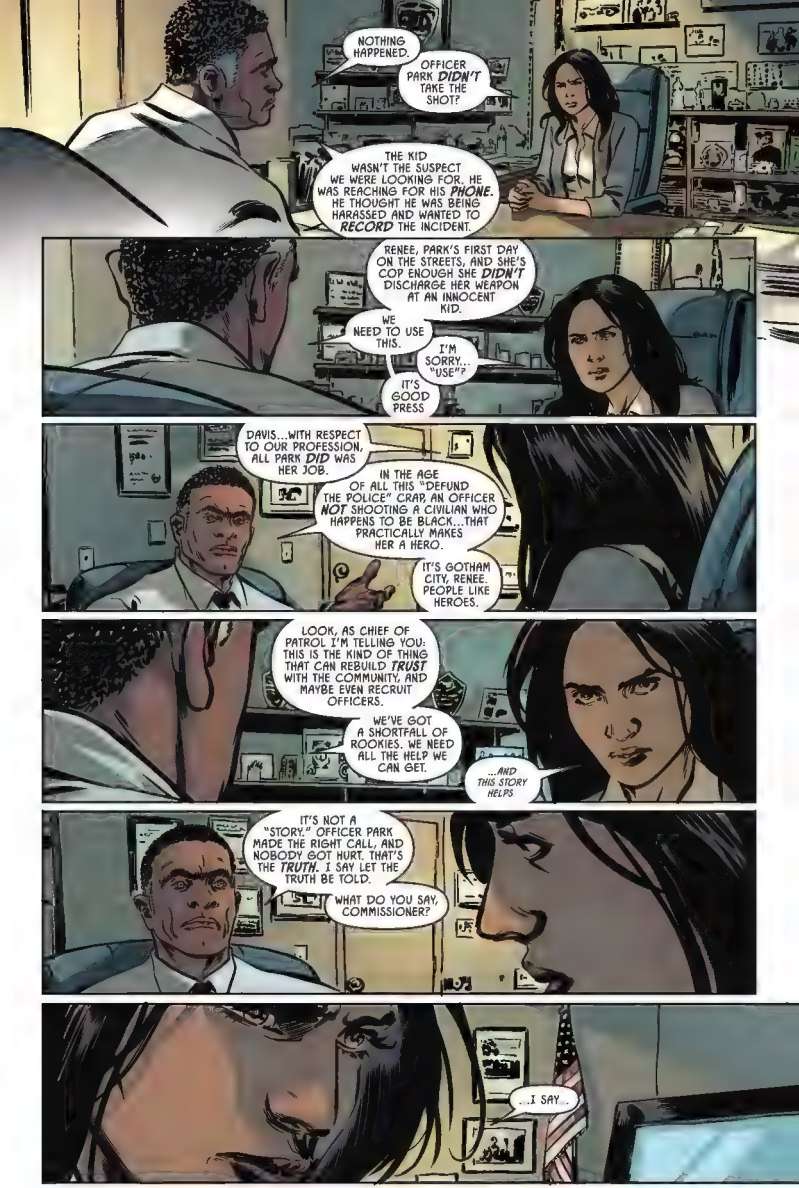
THAT'S THE WRONG...YOU'RE MIXING UP TWO DIFFERENT--
MY POINT IS, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU...

"...NO MATTER WHAT TOMORROW BRINGS, WE'RE HERE FOR EACH OTHER."
LITTLE TOKYO.
MIGHT WANT TO GET YOURSELF A GOOD PAIR OF SUNGLASSES, PARK.
WHAT'S THAT?
TAIPAN BAKERY
GCPD
GET SOME SUNGLASSES. DRIVING AROUND LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME, STARING OUT THE WINDOW...IT'LL KILL YOUR VISION.
BUT IF I WEAR SUNGLASSES I CAN'T MAKE EYE CONTACT.
CPD
EYE CONTACT? ARE YOU FOR RE--
ALL UNITS, BE ON THE LOOKOUT: SUSPECT IS A BLACK MALE, FIFTEEN TO SEVENTEEN, WEARING A RED SWEATSHIRT.
SUSPECT MAY BE ARMED. PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
LOVE HOW THEY DESCRIBE HALF THE KIDS ON THIS BEAT, AND THEN MAKE US PICK AND CHOOSE.
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS. THEY HAND US A BAG OF [redacted], THEN TELL US TO GO FIND THE TURD AT THE BOTTOM.
JUST SAYIN', THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO ARREST THE WRONG PERSON.
RIGHT, AND WRONG ARE FOR THE D.A.'S OFFICE TO FIGURE OUT. WE JUST DO AS TOLD.
TELLIN' YOU, PARK. GET SOME SUNGLASSES.
LOOKING AT THE WORLD ALL DAY'LL MAKE YOU GO BLIND.
"I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW IMPRESSED WE ALL ARE BY YOU."

THANK YOU, SIR. COMING FROM THE CHIEF OF PATROL, IT MEANS A LOT.
AND I KNOW BEING POSTED TO TRICORNER FOR MY FIRST ASSIGNMENT... THAT'S A BIG DEAL.
A *VERY* BIG DEAL. BUT YOU EARNED IT, OFFICER ORTEGA.
YOU DISTINGUISHED YOURSELF EVERY STEP OF THE WAY AT THE ACADEMY.
OFFICER ORTEGA... DANNY, I'LL BE HONEST: WORKING *TRICORNER* IS THE *TOUGHEST* SLOT YOU CAN PULL.
THE DIVISION HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST CRIME RATES IN THE CITY, AND IT'S MOST IN NEED OF REPAIRING COMMUNITY/POLICE RELATIONS.
UNDERSTOOD.
THE OTHER THING YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND, THE COPS WORKING TRICORNER TAKE PRIDE IN HAVING MADE THE CUT.
EXPECT TO HAVE TO PROVE YOURSELF, BUT WHEN YOU DO...AND YOU *WILL*... YOU'LL HAVE BROTHERS FOR LIFE.
I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO THAT.
YOU *SHOULD*. DO WELL AT TRICORNER, AND YOU'LL HAVE A HELL OF A *FUTURE* WITH THE DEPARTMENT.
YES, SIR.
AND DANNY, KNOWING HOW IMPORTANT ALL THIS IS...DON'T LET *US* DOWN.
...NO, SIR... I WON'T.
"HEY, LOOK AT THIS...THINK WE GOT SOMETHING."

STRAIGHT AHEAD...YOUNG, BLACK MALE. RED HOODIE.
THAT THE KID WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR?
DON'T KNOW. TOLD YOU: WE JUST MAKE THE COLLAR...
...AND LET THE D.A. SORT OUT THE REST.
BUT HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW IF THIS KID'S THE RIGHT--
HEY, C'MERE... WANNA TALK TO YOU.
[redacted]...HE'S RUNNING.
TAKE THE ALLEY!

I DO LIKE I'M TOLD. I START TO RUN.
I DON'T MAKE IT THREE FEET BEFORE MY HEART IS POUNDING. IT'S NOT THE RUNNING THAT'S MAKING IT BEAT...
LESS THAN A DAY FROM GRADUATING...
HOLD IT! DON'T MOVE!
..AND I'VE GOTTA DRAW MY WEAPON ON A KID
AND THEN HE DOES IT. HE GOES FOR HIS POCKET.
AND ME, I...
"SO. WHAT HAPPENED?"


NOTHING HAPPENED.
OFFICER PARK *DIDN'T* TAKE THE SHOT?
THE KID WASN'T THE SUSPECT WE WERE LOOKING FOR. HE WAS REACHING FOR HIS *PHONE*. HE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING HARASSED AND WANTED TO *RECORD* THE INCIDENT.
RENEE, PARK'S FIRST DAY ON THE STREETS, AND SHE'S COP ENOUGH SHE *DIDN'T* DISCHARGE HER WEAPON AT AN INNOCENT KID.
WE NEED TO USE THIS.
I'M SORRY... "USE"?
IT'S GOOD PRESS
DAVIS...WITH RESPECT TO OUR PROFESSION, ALL PARK *DID* WAS HER JOB.
IN THE AGE OF ALL THIS "DEFUND THE POLICE" CRAP, AN OFFICER *NOT* SHOOTING A CIVILIAN WHO HAPPENS TO BE BLACK...THAT PRACTICALLY MAKES HER A HERO.
IT'S GOTHAM CITY, RENEE. PEOPLE LIKE HEROES.
LOOK, AS CHIEF OF PATROL I'M TELLING YOU: THIS IS THE KIND OF THING THAT CAN REBUILD *TRUST* WITH THE COMMUNITY, AND MAYBE EVEN RECRUIT OFFICERS.
WE'VE GOT A SHORTFALL OF ROOKIES. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.
...AND THIS STORY HELPS
IT'S NOT A "STORY." OFFICER PARK MADE THE RIGHT CALL, AND NOBODY GOT HURT. THAT'S THE *TRUTH*. I SAY LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, COMMISSIONER?
...I SAY...

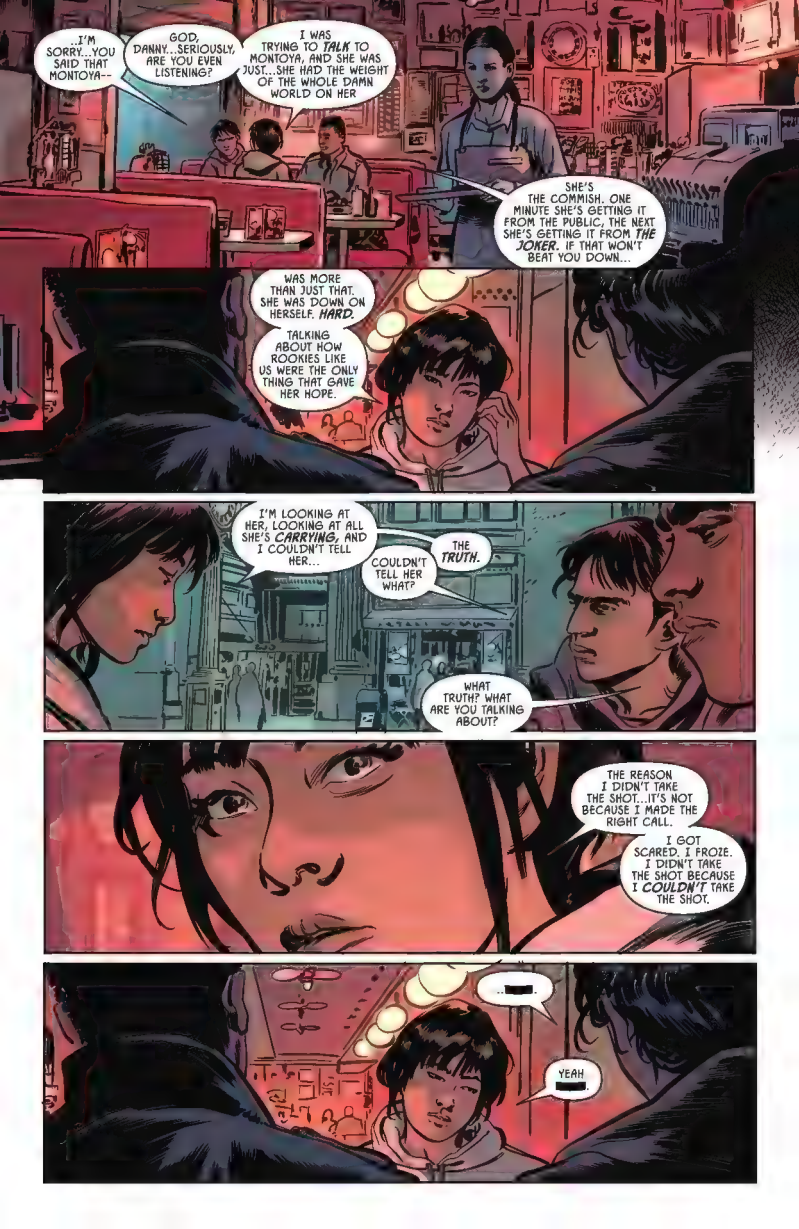
WHILE THOSE WHO DISCUSS AND DISSECT THE ACTIONS OF POLICE OFFICERS DO SO WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT, OFFICER PARK HAD TO MAKE A CRITICAL DECISION IN REAL TIME.
OFFICER PARK MADE THE RIGHT CALL.
NO DIFFERENT FROM THE HUNDREDS OF MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GOTHAM POLICE WHO MAKE THE RIGHT CALL OVER AND OVER AGAIN EACH DAY.
THEY ARE THE UNSUNG HEROES OF OUR CITY. BUT TODAY WE WILL HONOR ONE OF US WHO REPRESENTS THE BEST OF ALL OF US. OFFICER SAMANTHA PARK.
CONGRATULATIONS, OFFICER.
APPRECIATE IT, MA'AM
WHAT I'M THANKFUL FOR... I'M WEARING GLOVES, SO THE COMMISSIONER CAN'T FEEL THE COLDNESS OF MY SWEATY HAND AS I SHAKE HERS.
I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY...
I TRY TO THINK OF SOMETHING TO OFFER UP THAT IS THOUGHTFUL, OR PROFOUND, OR MOVING...
IN THE END, ALL I CAN COME UP WITH IS--
I GUESS ALL THERE IS TO SAY IS THANK YOU.
"THE THING IS, YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF."

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN LIVE STRAIGHT, MAKE IT THROUGH YOUR PAROLE, AND COME OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE BETTER.
YOU TALK LIKE IT'S EASY.
IT'S NOT EASY. ALMOST SIXTY PERCENT OF EX-CONVICTS ARE REARRESTED WITHIN A YEAR OF BEING RELEASED
THAT SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL GOOD?
I'M GIVING YOU THE REAL TALK. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A STATISTIC.
WHAT DOES HAPPEN... YOU GOTTA BE THE ONE TO DECIDE THAT.
'PRECIATE YA.
WHAT THE HELL WAS ALL THAT CRAP: "BELIEVE IN YOURSELF." "WHAT HAPPENS, YOU DECIDE."
I WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE HIM.
YOU'RE NOT A CAMP COUNSELOR. THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS CONS LIKE HIM IN LINE IS KNOWING IF THEY SCREW UP THEY GO BACK INSIDE.
THAT'S HOW WE GET THEM TO REFORM? USE FEAR?
AND YOU SHOW UP, EYES WIDE, THINKING YOU CAN HUG PEOPLE INTO BEING BETTER...
THIS ISN'T THE ACADEMY. THESE ARE THE STREETS, AND THE STREETS ARE REAL.
CALLED BEING "SCARED STRAIGHT" FOR A REASON. TEN TO ONE WE BUST THAT KID AGAIN INSIDE A MONTH.
"I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THEY'RE NOT LOOKING AT A HERO."

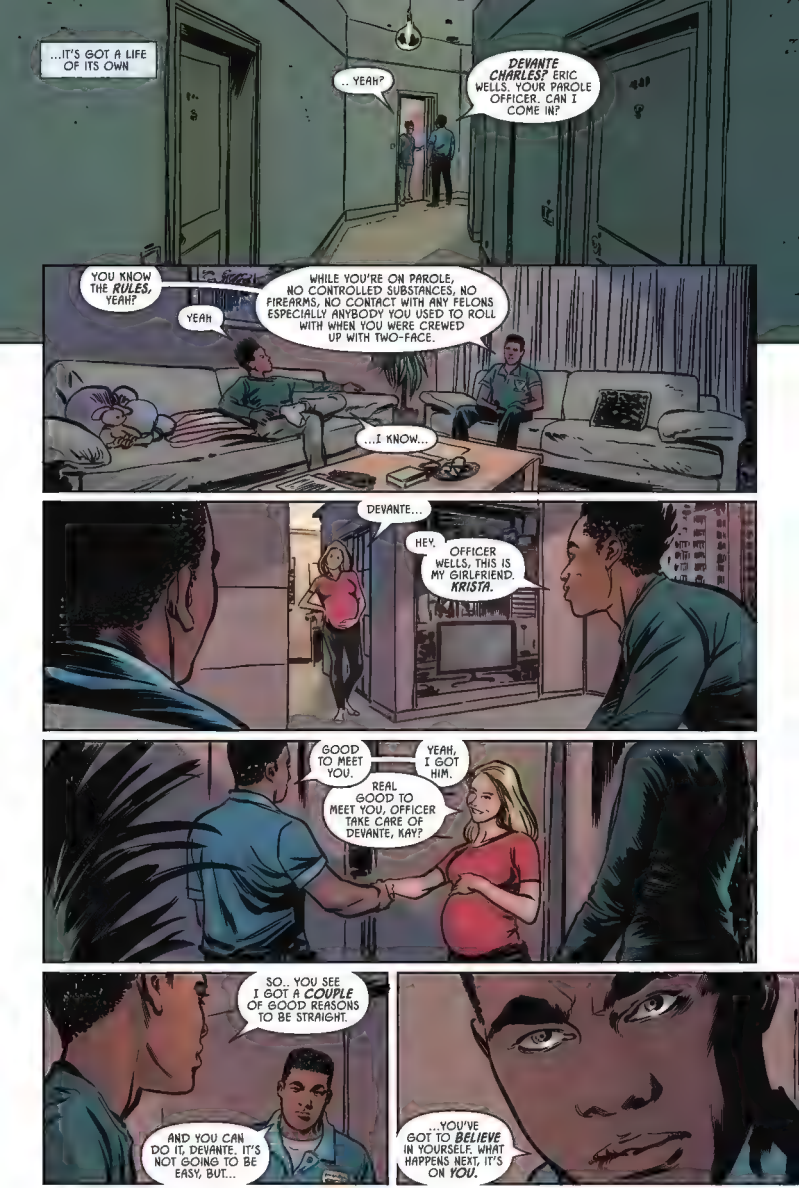
I'M JUST A POLICE OFFICER WHO WAS DOING HER JOB. I DIDN'T TAKE THE SHOT AT THE YOUNG MAN, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRAINED TO DO.
ALL OF US...WE'RE CALLED "GOTHAM'S FINEST" FOR A REASON.
THE REASON IS, EVERY DAY, WE DO OUR JOBS EXACTLY THE WAY THE DEPARTMENT TRAINED US. FOR US "TO PROTECT AND SERVE" ISN'T A MOTTO...
...IT'S A WAY OF LIFE...
...[redacted] ME...
"REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR."

YOU'RE WHAT?
REPORTING FOR DUTY, OFFICER DANNY ORTEGA. THIS IS MY PAPERWORK, SIR.
YOU'RE A HALF HOUR EARLY.
WELL... YOU'RE EITHER ON TIME, OR YOU'RE LATE.
OR YOU'RE EARLY. WHICH IS WHAT YOU ARE. SO HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE YOUR PAPERWORK, GO SIT DOWN, AND WAIT FOR ROLL CALL?
...YES, SIR..
FRICKIN' BEANER...
ORTEGA
"I KNOW WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT ME."

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING ABOUT YOU, OFFICER PARK?
THEY'RE SAYING I'M A HERO. THEY'RE SAYING I'M A SUPERCOP BECAUSE I DIDN'T PULL MY TRIGGER.
THE TRUTH IS I'M NOT EITHER OF THOSE.
THE PRESS CONFERENCES, THE INTERVIEWS...I KNOW THEY'RE OVERWHELMING, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE PUBLIC TO KNOW YOU MADE THE RIGHT CALL.
I DON'T... I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M...
YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU'RE A HERO? TRUST ME, I GET THAT.
WHETHER IT'S AS A COP, OR... OTHER PARTS OF MY LIFE. I'VE DONE THINGS WHERE I THOUGHT I'D REALLY MADE A DIFFERENCE.
THEN YOU WAKE UP THE NEXT DAY, AND YOU REALIZE THE WORLD IS JUST AS [redacted] AS THE DAY BEFORE, AND YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A THING.
EVERYBODY WHO TRIES TO DO GOOD LIVES IN AN IDEALISTIC WORLD.
AND LIVING IN AN IDEALISTIC WORLD JUST OPENS YOU UP TO A KICK IN THE TEETH FROM REALITY. THAT'S IF YOU'RE LUCKY. MOST TIMES REALITY JUST WANTS TO GIVE YOU A SHOT TO THE BALLS.
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT? THAT'S...SAD.
YEAH. IT IS. WHICH IS WHY I'M THANKFUL THERE'RE YOUNGBLOODS LIKE YOU OUT THERE WHO BELIEVE DOING RIGHT BRINGS RIGHT. IT REMINDS THE REST OF US THE JOB'S NOT JUST A JOB.
IT'S A CALLING TO CHOOSE TO PUT YOURSELF BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG--GOOD AND EVIL--KNOWING ALL YOU BRING TO THE PARTY IS YOUR VERY MORTAL FLESH.
AND NO MATTER HOW MANY SCARS YOU COLLECT, YOU'D ANSWER THE SAME CALL TOMORROW, AND EVERY DAY GOD LETS YOU.
ALL THAT--THE SENSE OF PRIDE THAT COMES WITH "SERVE AND PROTECT": THAT'S WHAT YOU AND THE ROOKIES REMIND ME OF. SO DON'T LOSE YOUR FAITH, PARK.
IF NOTHING ELSE, EVEN IF JUST FOR ME, DON'T LOSE YOUR FAITH.
"ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?"


...I'M SORRY...YOU SAID THAT MONTOYA--
GOD, DANNY...SERIOUSLY, ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
I WAS TRYING TO *TALK* TO MONTOYA, AND SHE WAS JUST...SHE HAD THE WEIGHT OF THE WHOLE DAMN WORLD ON HER
SHE'S THE COMMISH. ONE MINUTE SHE'S GETTING IT FROM THE PUBLIC, THE NEXT SHE'S GETTING IT FROM *THE JOKER.* IF THAT WON'T BEAT YOU DOWN...
WAS MORE THAN JUST THAT. SHE WAS DOWN ON HERSELF. *HARD.*
TALKING ABOUT HOW ROOKIES LIKE US WERE THE ONLY THING THAT GAVE HER HOPE.
I'M LOOKING AT HER, LOOKING AT ALL SHE'S *CARRYING,* AND I COULDN'T TELL HER...
COULDN'T TELL HER WHAT?
THE *TRUTH.*
WHAT TRUTH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE REASON I DIDN'T TAKE THE SHOT...IT'S NOT BECAUSE I MADE THE RIGHT CALL.
I GOT SCARED. I FROZE. I DIDN'T TAKE THE SHOT BECAUSE I *COULDN'T* TAKE THE SHOT.
...
YEAH.

WELL...IF YOU DIDN'T TAKE THE SHOT, YOU DIDN'T TAKE THE SHOT. WHAT *DIFFERENCE* DOES IT MAKE?
IT MAKES A HELL OF A DIFFERENCE. THEY'VE GOT ME ON HEAVY ROTATION ON EVERY NEWS SHOW, *PUMPING* ME OUT LIKE I'M A HERO...
I'M *NOT* A HERO. I'M A COWARD.
YOU'RE NOT A--
ERIC, I'M A STRAIGHT-UP *COWARD.*
YOU'RE *NOT* A COWARD. FIRST DAY ON THE STREETS, AND YOU'RE FACING EVERY COP'S WORST NIGHTMARE.
THAT'S NOT THE PART THAT MAKES ME A COWARD. I'M A COWARD 'CAUSE I'M TOO *SCARED* TO TELL ANYBODY WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED.
GO BACK, TALK TO MONTOYA. IF THERE'S ANYBODY WHO'S GOT YOU...
I'M TRYING TO *BE* LIKE MONTOYA. LAST THING I'M GONNA DO, DAY ONE, IS GO IN HER OFFICE AND TELL HER I'M A SCREWUP.
NOT WHEN SHE'S COUNTING ON *US* TO DO BETTER.
LOOK...WHAT HAPPENED, HAPPENED. YOU GOT THROUGH IT. YOU LEARNED...AND ALL THIS PRESS [redacted]... COUPLE OF DAYS, THEY'LL BE ON TO THE NEXT.
BUT YOU'RE A *GOOD COP,* SAM. DON'T DOUBT IT. WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T DOUBT YOURSELF
DANNY AND ERIC...THEY'RE DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO MAKE ME FEEL GOOD. TO MAKE ME BELIEVE THERE'RE GOING TO BE BETTER TOMORROWS.
BUT THE THING ABOUT *TOMORROW...*
DO NOT


...IT'S GOT A LIFE OF ITS OWN
...YEAH?
DEVANTE CHARLES? ERIC WELLS. YOUR PAROLE OFFICER. CAN I COME IN?
YOU KNOW THE RULES, YEAH?
YEAH
WHILE YOU'RE ON PAROLE, NO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, NO FIREARMS, NO CONTACT WITH ANY FELONS ESPECIALLY ANYBODY YOU USED TO ROLL WITH WHEN YOU WERE CREWED UP WITH TWO-FACE.
...I KNOW...
DEVANTE...
HEY.
OFFICER WELLS, THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND. KRISTA.
GOOD TO MEET YOU.
YEAH, I GOT HIM.
REAL GOOD TO MEET YOU, OFFICER TAKE CARE OF DEVANTE, KAY?
SO... YOU SEE I GOT A COUPLE OF GOOD REASONS TO BE STRAIGHT.
AND YOU CAN DO IT, DEVANTE. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY, BUT...
...YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, IT'S ON YOU.

DAMN, PARK. YOU'RE STILL A LOCAL HERO.
...I GUESS...
IF I WAS YOU, I'D RIDE THAT PONY FOR AS LONG AS I--
BAM
HELP HELP ME.
GROCERY
HELP HIM! I'LL FIND THE SHOOTER.
PARK...
STAY WITH THE VIC!
I TAKE OFF. I RUN LIKE...LIKE SOMEBODY WHO'S GOT SOMETHING TO PROVE

THE STREET IS FULL OF PEOPLE, AND I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHO I'M LOOKING FOR.
MY HAND'S SO SLICK WITH SWEAT IT CAN BARELY GRIP MY GUN.
I KEEP TELLING MYSELF: I'M GONNA GET IT RIGHT. I'M GONNA FIND THE SHOOTER. I'M GONNA FIND...
...HIM!
BAM

HE PULLED A GUN. HE TOOK THE SHOT.
ME...?
I NEVER EVEN GET MY GUN OUT. I'M DEAD.
AS THE KID RUNS OFF, I STAND THERE THINKING I'M DEAD.
I SHOULD BE.
BUT HE MISSED. WAS NEARLY POINT BLANK, AND HE MISSED.
FOR A SECOND I THINK I'M THE LUCKIEST PERSON ON THE PLANET.
HELP ME! HE'S BEEN SHOT! SOMEBODY HELP!
NO. I'M NOT LUCKY. I'M SCREWED.
TO BE CONTINUED.

BLACK ADAM/JSA: BLACK REIGN

BLACK ADAM: THE DARK AGE

BLACK ADAM: RISE AND FALL OF AN EMPIRE

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

THE RIDDLER
YEAR ONE

Earlier this year, Matt Reeves's *The Batman* compelled audiences worldwide with an invigorating new take on the pop culture icon, Gotham City, and its heroes and villains—and anyone who left the film walked away wanting to learn more about Paul Dano's aptly enigmatic take on the Riddler.

Well, great news: the origin story of how forensic accountant Edward Nashton became an unsettling criminal mastermind will be told in the six-issue bimonthly DC Black Label series *The Riddler: Year One*, written by Dano himself and illustrated by Steven Subic, with covers by comics legend Bill Sienkiewicz.

With *The Riddler: Year One* #1 out this month, take a look at Subic's interior artwork as Edward Nashton's deadly and disturbing journey begins.

DON'T MISS
***THE RIDDLER: YEAR ONE* #1,**
ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

DC BLACK LABEL
AGES 17+

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics ANNE DePIES Senior VP – General Manager JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer DON FALLETTI VP – Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Talent Services ALISON GILL Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations JEFFREY KAUFMAN VP – Editorial Strategy & Programming NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing Administration & Design NANCY SPEARS VP – Revenue

GCPD: THE BLUE WALL 1. December, 2022. Published monthly by DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522. GST # is R125021672. Copyright © 2022 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dc.com/ratings.